

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-49 were pending in the grandparent case (US Patent Application No. 08/341,555, filed June 24, 1996) and claims 1-42, 44, 48, and 49 were allowed in that case, which is now U.S. Patent 6,271,037. Claims 50-54 and 57-63 are currently pending in a subsequent continuation (US Patent Application No. 09/828,326, filed April 5, 2001) with claims 50-54, 57-60 and 63 allowed, claims 61 and 62 objected to and claims 55-56 canceled. Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-49 and 50-54 and 57-63 and add new claims 64-73. Applicants believe the present preliminary amendment does not introduce any new matter and respectfully request examination of claims 64-73.

Newly added claims 64-73 find support in the specification at, *inter alia*, page 4, lines 8-11, and page 41, lines 3-6. The cancellation of the previously pending claims was not done for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claims or claimed embodiments, but rather to present new claims to embodiments fully disclosed in the instant application as originally filed. No amendment has been made for the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein.

Continuation of Appl. No. 09/828,326
Amdt. dated 3/2/2004]
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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